



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith  
Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: February 1, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on February 1, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions were clear and windy. Temperatures ranged from 43°F in the morning to 57°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded today, however there was 0.24 inch of rain in the area on Sunday.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with filling the cement wall near the Tide Gates, grading for the walking path along Admiralty Way, installation of coastal sage and bluff scrub mix on the north side of the Central Basin, and digging a trench along the west side of the West Basin for an anticipated wall. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrives on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:25 am. Biological monitoring begins. An American Coot and an American Wigeon are in the Central Basin. Yellow-rumped Warblers are heard in the trees behind the Pump House. The American Wigeon flies out of the Basin shortly after. Several Gulls fly overhead.

8:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The training consisted of a description of current wildlife

observations and instruction to pay special attention to Monarchs.

8:15 am. Work begins. Crews continue planting in the Central Basin, building brick columns near the Pump house, and grading the walking path along Admiralty.

8:45 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched in a staged oak tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

8:52 am. A Belted Kingfisher flies over the Basin landing on a wooden stake and the Berm and finally settles on the powerlines above the north side of the Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies out from under the pine by the East Basin toward the bike path.

9:05 am. A Black Phoebe is perched along the bank of the Southeast Channel. An American Crow calls from a tree across Admiralty Way. The two American Coots are wading in the Southeast Channel.

9:53 am. A Black Phoebe is foraging along the north bank of the East Basin. A worker begins reinstalling the silt fence that had blown over.

10:30 am. A Snowy Egret flies into the Basin and walks along the bank of the East Basin.

10:46 am. The Snowy Egret flies out of the Basin and heads toward the marina. A Black Phoebe forages in the West Basin near the Tide Gates. A cement truck arrives to pour the wall behind the Tide Gates.

11:10 am. A Black Phoebe is foraging near the Stormwater Outfall. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are perched in the pine at the East Basin.

11:19 am. A Townsend's Warbler, two Yellow-rumped Warblers a Black Phoebe, and a Dark-eyed Junco take turns perching on the privacy fence along the bike path.

11:28 am. Two Townsend's Warblers fly into a eucalyptus tree near the Bike Path.

11:35 am. Two crows are perched on the powerline pole on the Northeast Peninsula.

11:45 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Work resumes.

12:50 pm. A Say's Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the Stormwater Outfall.

1:27 pm. A Black Phoebe perches on a silt fence along the West Basin.

1:35 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the privacy fence in the Parking Lot.

1:57 am. Several American Crows fly in and out of the eucalyptus trees near the boat ramp. The two

American Coots begin foraging in the Southeast Channel and a Snowy Egret flies into the channel.

2:11 pm. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the East Basin.

3:03 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies between the branches in the pine near the East Basin. Workers begin to replace the privacy fence along Admiralty Way.

3:19 pm. A Black Phoebe perches on a wooden stake in the Northwest Peninsula.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 3:45 pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any Monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am.
3. Very few sightings were observed today. It is likely that high wind speeds of up to 13 mph could have limited activity.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 1, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on February 1, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
American Wigeons	<i>Anas americana</i>	The individuals in the Basin in the early morning
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	One to two individuals perched on powerlines
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual in the East Basin
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Perched on the fence near the bike path
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Perched on the fence near the bike path





*Figure 1 - Northwest Peninsula with staged plants*



*Figure 2 - West Basin and Northwest Peninsula*





*Figure 3 - Central Basin with coastal scrub and brush mix*



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*  
*Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: February 2, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on February 2, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions were clear. Temperatures ranged from 39°F in the morning to 60°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with filling the cement wall near the Stormwater Outfall, the addition of topsoil along the slope of the walking path along Admiralty Way, installation of coastal sage and bluff scrub mix on the north side of the West Basin, and installation of rebar along the west side of the West Basin for an anticipated wall. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrives on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:28 am. Biological monitoring begins. An American Coot is in the West Basin. Another American Coot is in the Southeast Channel. Several Yellow-rumped Warblers can be seen in the trees behind the Pump House. Gulls fly overhead.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The training consists of a description of current wildlife observations and instructions to pay special attention to Monarchs.

7:10 am. Work begins. Crews continue planting in the West Basin and Northwest Peninsula, building brick columns near the Pump house, excavating the west side of the West Basin, and grading the walking path along Admiralty.

7:39 am. The American Coots are eating the grass along the bank of the East Basin. A Black Phoebe also forages in the East Basin bank. Several American Crows fly in and out of the eucalyptus trees behind the Pump House.

8:30 am. Two Anna's Hummingbirds and several Yellow-rumped Warblers fly between branches in the trees behind the Pump House.

8:41 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the stockpiles near the East Basin. Crews begin scaffolding work for the wall on the west side of the West Basin.

9:24 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages along the bank of the East Basin.

9:37 am. A Say's Phoebe is perched on a rock near the Pump House.

10:03 am. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers fly in the trees along Admiralty Way.

10:13 am. A Black Phoebe is foraging in the West Basin mudflat. Crews place topsoil along the slope of the walking path. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged oak tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

10:25 am. Three House Sparrows and two Say's Phoebes are feeding near the water tanks near the West Basin.

10:58 am. A Say's Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the Southeast Channel.

11:05 am. A Black Phoebe is perched near the Boat Ramp. A Rock Pigeon flies overhead.

11:20 am. Two Rock Pigeons fly over the Construction Trailer.

11:45 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Work resumes.

1:30 pm. A Say's Phoebe is perched on the powerlines near the Construction Trailer.

1:42 pm. A Black Phoebe forages in the East Basin.

1:57 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on an acacia tree near the Pump House. A Yellow-rumped Warbler perches on the fence behind the Pump House.

2:12 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the pine next to the Tide Gates.

2:20 pm. A Townsend's Warbler is flying between the pines near the Tide Gates.

3:00 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the bushes near the Construction Trailer. A worker beings sweeping the dust in the Parking Lot.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 3:45 pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any Monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am.
3. Very few wildlife sightings were observed today.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 2, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on February 2, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Perched on the fence near the bike path
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	One individual in the pine near the Tide Gates





*Figure 1 - New plantings on Northeast Peninsula*





*Figure 2 - New plantings on Northwest Peninsula*





*Figure 3 - New plantings on Northwest Peninsula*





*Figure 4 - New plantings on Northwest Peninsula*





*Figure 5 - New plantings on Northwest Peninsula*



*Figure 6 - New plantings on West Basin*





*Figure 7 - New plantings on West Basin*



*Figure 8 - New plantings on West Basin*



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*  
*Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: February 3, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on February 3, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 pm. Weather conditions were clear. Temperatures ranged from 43°F in the morning to 59°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with filling the cement wall near the West Basin, leveling soil in the Peninsulas, installation of coastal sage and bluff scrub mix on the West Basin, the planting of cottonwoods and oak trees in the West Basin Bank, and the completion of several brick columns along the Boat Ramp and Stormwater Outfall. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrives on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:30 am. Biological monitoring begins. Two American Coots are on the north bank of the East Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler and an Anna's Hummingbird are heard in the trees behind the Pump House. Several Gulls fly north. A Great Egret is in the East Basin then flies south. The American Wigeons are swimming in the East Basin as two Mallards fly in from the north and join.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The training consists of a description of current wildlife



observations and instructions to pay special attention to Monarchs. Crews are reminded to clean up trash in the work area.

7:15 am. Work begins. Crews continue planting along the West Basin, scaffolding for the remaining wall in the West Basin continues, as well as planting and watering of the coastal bluff and scrub mix plants. A fencing company is onsite to begin the installation of the fence posts on the parapet wall; another group of workers being leveling and compacting the soil at the Northeast Peninsula.

7:40 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged tree on the Northwest Peninsula. There is increased Gull activity overhead with most of them flying north. House Sparrows can be heard in the palms across Washington.

7:54 am. An American Crow calls from the powerline pole on the Northwest Peninsula. A Western Gull and California Gull fly overhead.

8:08 am. An Anna's Hummingbird and a Yellow-rumped Warbler are perched in a tree behind the Pump House. The Yellow-rumped Warbler flies out, lands across the channel, then flies back into the trees. The American Wigeons are no longer seen in the Basin.

8:17 am. A Black Phoebe flies out of the trees and perches on the silt fence in the Southeast Channel. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages on the bank of the Southeast Channel. Crews begin compacting soil on the Northwest Peninsula.

8:44 am. A Black Pheobe chases another into and out of the site near the Central Basin. Another Black Phoebe is perched on the sidewall of the Stormwater Outfall. Another flies in and both chase each other while a third joins. A Yellow-rumped Warbler startles them as it flies overhead. All three Black Phobes fly off site toward Washington.

8:56 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies out of the Basin and perches on the dumpster. The Mallards are no longer seen in the Basin.

9:13 am. A Western Gull flies north overhead. A Say's Phoebe is perched on the silt fence on the East Basin.

9:30 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is in the pine next to the Tide Gates.

9:39 am. A Black Phoebe is foraging in the West Basin mudflat.

10:15 am. A Townsend's Warbler is jumping between branches on the pines next to the Tide Gates.

10:28 am. A Snowy Egret is perched on the overflow weir near the Boat Ramp, it flies toward the marina. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree behind the Pump House.

10:36 am. A worker waters the plants under the pine at the East Basin. A flock of crows begins to circle above the Boat Ramp.

11:36 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched in the potted plants near the Construction Trailer.

11:45 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Work resumes.

12:37 pm. Crews begin planting the cottonwood trees and oak trees along the west and south sides of the West Basin. A concrete truck arrives to pour the concrete for the wall on the West Basin. A Townsend's Warbler is in the pine tree near the Tide Gates.

1:07 pm. Five American Crows fly over the north side of the Basin heading west.

1:22 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird flies between trees near the end of the bike path. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers fly out of the pine near the East Basin. One returns and jumps between branches.

1:44 pm. A Townsend's Warbler is in the pines near the Tide Gates. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies into the same tree and gets chased out by the Townsend's Warbler. Two Anna's Hummingbirds fly into the tree.

2:01 pm. A Black Phoebe forages along the north bank of the East Basin. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched in a tree near the Pump House. The backflow tester arrives on site to certify devices.

2:27 pm. A Rock Pigeon flies over the West Basin but does not land.

2:57 pm. A Western Gull flies over the basin and lands in the Construction Parking Lot. The American Coots are wading in the delta of the Southeast Channel.

3:01 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies out of the staging area near the West Basin. A flock of four American Crows circles the basin near the Tide Gates.

3:15 pm. Scaffolding is being removed at the wall near the Tide Gates.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 3:45 pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any Monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am.
3. Very few wildlife sightings were observed today.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 3, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on February 3, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin

Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Perched on the fence near the bike path
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	One individual in the pine near the Tide Gates
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Two individuals in the Basin in early morning
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Two individuals in the Basin in early morning
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several individuals calling from the palms on Washington
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual near Boat Ramp
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	One individual on bank of East Basin in early morning



Figure 1 - Central Basin Plants





Figure 2 - East Basin and Northeast Peninsula



Figure 3 - North side of Northwest Peninsula





Figure 4 - North side of Northeast Peninsula



Figure 5 - Planted cottonwoods at West Basin





Figure 6 - Planted oaks at West Basin



Figure 7 - South side of Northwest Peninsula





## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*  
*Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: February 4, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on February 4, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 pm. Weather conditions were clear. Temperatures ranged from 43°F in the morning to 63°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with filling the cement wall at the bike plaza, leveling soil in the Peninsulas, installation of coastal prairie mix on the East Peninsula, and top soil filling on the south slope of the Basin. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrives on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:30 am. Biological monitoring begins. A Black-crowned Night Heron is perched on the wall of the Tide Gates. An American Crow calls from a tree across Admiralty Way. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the trees along the bike path. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is seen jumping between branches in the eucalyptus behind the Pump House, and several others are heard. Three Gulls fly north overhead. Two American Coots and two Gadwalls are wading near the bank of the East Basin. Four Mallards fly into the East Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies out of the palms and perches on the silt fence in the East Basin.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The training consists of a description of current wildlife observations and instructions to pay special attention to Monarchs. Crew is reminded to pick up and remove trash from the work area.

7:10 am. Work begins. Workers consolidate stockpiles in Parking Lot. A truck is onsite to vacuum sludge from water tanks. Fence poles are being installed for the parapet wall. Landscapers plant coastal prairie mix on the Northeast Peninsula.

7:35 am. A Western Gull flies into the Central Basin and wades.

8:03 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the staged plants along the West Basin. An Anna's Hummingbird flies between the pines near the Tide Gates. Grading and compacting of soil continues at the Northeast Peninsula.

8:16 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages on the bank of the Southeast Channel.

8:26 am. Several Yellow-rumped Warblers are spotted in the eucalyptus behind the Pump House. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree nearby. One pair of Mallards fly out of the Basin due west.

8:33 am. House Sparrows can be heard in the palms along Washington.

8:50 am. A group of Western, California, and Ring-billed Gulls are circling over the Parking Lot. Three American Crows are perched on the powerlines near the Construction Trailer.

8:55 am. Two American Crows are perched in the pine near the Tide Gates. A worker removes scaffolding on the completed wall nearby. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the center of the East Basin.

9:09 am. The Mallards and Gadwalls are no longer in the Basin. The American Coots are wading in the Southeast Channel. A crew begins to fill the trench near the Pump House. Another set of workers continues to apply topsoil on the southern slope of the Central Basin.

9:55 am. A Snowy Egret walks along the bank of the East Basin.

10:24 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on the low-flow weir near the Boat Ramp.

10:41 am. A House Finch calls from a palm near the Boat Ramp.

10:51 am. A Black Phoebe is foraging on the bank of the East Basin. Three Rock Pigeons perch on the balconies of the residences across Admiralty Way.

11:14 am. Four American Crows circle the Basin overhead.

11:25 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies across the Southeast Channel.

11:45 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Work resumes.

12:53 pm. A Double-crested Cormorant flies overhead heading south, but does not land. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged oak on the Northwest Peninsula. A Black Phoebe stands on the mudflat of the Central Basin.

1:03 pm. Cement pouring begins for the walls of the bike plaza. The American Coots are in the center of the East Basin. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the Stormwater Outfall.

1:10 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages along the north bank of the East Basin. Two Black Phoebes are perched on wooden stakes on the East Basin. Landscapers begin to lay out potted plants on west side of West Basin.

1:59 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the staged trees on the Northwest Peninsula.

2:12 pm. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers fly onto the bank of the East Basin. One flies to the dumpster nearby. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree by the pump house. Winds begin to pick up.

3:00 pm. A Black Phoebe is perched on the pine near the Tide Gates. An Anna's Hummingbird flies over the pines.

3:19 pm. The American Coots are near the Boat Ramp.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 3:45 pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any Monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am.
3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
4. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 4, 2016.**

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on February 4, 2016		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Perched on the fence near the bike path
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Two individuals in the Basin in early morning
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Four individuals in the Basin in early morning
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	One individual in palms near Boat Ramp
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several individuals calling from the palms on Washington
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual in East Basin

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Figure 1 - Coastal prairie mix on Northeast Peninsula





Figure 2 - Staged coastal prairie mix on Northwest Peninsula





Figure 3 - Mapping of future planting on west side of West Basin



## Memorandum

**To:** Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

**From:** Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith  
Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith

**Date:** February 5, 2016

**Subject:** Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

### Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on February 5, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 pm. Weather conditions were clear. Temperatures ranged from 44°F in the morning to 71°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with testing the irrigation lines, planting on the Peninsulas, removal of scaffolding on the finished walls at the bike plaza, grading for the walking path along Admiralty, and staging of the plants along the west side of the West Basin. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

### Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrives on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:30 am. Biological monitoring begins. Two American Coots are in the delta of the Southeast Channel. Two Gulls fly overhead. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is heard in the trees behind the Pump House. A Black Phoebe is perched on the silt fence along the Northeast Peninsula. House Sparrows and an Anna's Hummingbird are heard in the palms along Washington.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The training consists of a description of current wildlife observations and instructions to pay special attention to Monarchs. The crew is reminded to pick

up and remove trash from the work area.

7:10 am. Work begins. Irrigation is being tested on the Northwest Peninsula. The large dumpster at the East Basin is being replaced. Landscapers work on both Peninsulas.

7:25 am. A Black Phoebe is perched in the Berm.

8:10 am. Two Ring-billed Gulls fly south.

8:15 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler feeds on the flowers of a eucalyptus tree. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree by the Boat Ramp.

8:41 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the staged oak on the Northwest Peninsula.

8:52 am. A Snowy Egret flies into the Southeast Channel.

9:02 am. An American Crow is foraging in the coastal scrub mix on the West Basin.

9:14 am. Four American Crows forage along the walking path near the Central Basin. An Anna's Hummingbird is in the pines south of the Central Basin.

9:35 am. The Snowy Egret is perched on the bank next to the Boat Ramp. Workers are grading and compacting soil for the walking path nearby.

9:42 am. A Black Phoebe perches on the fence along the Bike Path. The pump engine and one of the water tanks in the Parking Lot are being removed.

10:00 am. Three Anna's Hummingbirds call from the pine near the Tide Gate.

10:18 am. An Anna's Hummingbird hovers over the Southeast Channel then retreats to the trees along the bike path.

10:27 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the pine near the East Basin. Workers remove the scaffolding on the first wall of the bike plaza.

11:10 am. Plants are staged along the west side of the West Basin. Two Anna's Hummingbirds are perched in the pine near the Tide Gate.

11:16 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the East Basin. The Snowy Egret is no longer in the Basin.

11:23 am. Two Snowy Egrets fly over the Basin. One lands in the Central Basin mudflat. It then walks over to the Stormwater Outfall and stands on the trash screen. A Black Phoebe is perched on the wall of the Outfall.

11:45 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Work resumes.

12:41 pm. Three Ring-billed Gulls circle the Basin overhead.

12:48 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the pine trees south of the Central Basin. The two American Coots are wading near the Boat Ramp. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree by the Pump House.

1:15 pm. The landscapers begin to test the irrigation on the Northeast Peninsula.

1:49 pm. A Ring-billed Gull flies over the Southeast Channel due north. A Monarch Butterfly flies west along the edge of the Southeast Channel toward Washington.

2:04 pm. A Say's Phoebe is flying between the fence of the Parking Lot and the new posts on the parapet wall.

2:11 pm. An American Crow is perched on a light post in the Parking Lot. An Anna's Hummingbird calls from the pine near the Tide Gates. A Rock Pigeon flies south overhead.

2:45 pm. A bloom of brown algae is noted in the delta of the Southeast Channel and near the boat ramp.

3:08 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree by the Pump House. The two American Coots are in the Southeast Channel.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 3:45 pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

One Monarch Butterfly was observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any Monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and

around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.

2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am.
3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
4. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 5, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on February 5, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Perched on the fence near the bike path
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several individuals calling from the palms on Washington
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Two to three individuals in the East Basin and Southeast Channel





Figure 1- Coastal prairie mix installed in Northwest Peninsula



Figure 2 - Coastal prairie mix installed in Northwest Peninsula





Figure 3 - Coastal prairie mix installed in Northeast Peninsula





## **Memorandum**

**To:** *Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

**From:** *Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*  
*John Ivanov, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

**Date:** *February 6, 2016*

**Subject:** *Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on February 6, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by John Ivanov, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:30 am and ending at 3:30p.m. Weather conditions during the day were clear skies, with temperatures ranging from 49°F in the morning to a high of 74°F.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading, planting, trenching, and erosion control within the Basin. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## **Biologist's Field Log**

6:30 am. The biological monitor arrived and gave the bio-awareness training to nineteen crew members. The training consisted of instructions to workers to watch for wildlife, including Monarch butterflies, and to stop work if wildlife enters the work area(s).

6:55 am. The crew begins planting along the western most embankment using only hand tools (Figure 1). Four Lesser Scaup rest in the Basin and two American Coots feed along its edges. Two Mallards alight in the Basin.

7:15 am. The crew begins planting on the northwest most peninsula using only hand tools (Figure 2).

7:36 am. Ten American Crows were observed flying overhead.

7:50 am. The biologist observed that the Diversion Berm plants seemed to be doing well, they showed no wilting of planted plants; additionally, other seedlings were beginning to sprout.

8:05 am. The crew began trenching along northern edge of site near the bike path; to install a drain pipe (Figure 3). A water truck was used to keep dust down. Ten Rock Pigeons, a House Finch, a Ring-billed Gull and two hummingbirds were observed flying overhead.

8:33 am. Three California Gulls, a Eurasian-collared Dove, and a Common Raven flew overhead while a Double-crested Cormorant fished in the Basin. A Yellow-rumped warbler foraged at the shoreline.

9:00 am. The crew prepped to install Green Terra Mesh at Eastern most inlet (Figure 4). A Western Gull, an American Crow, and a Common Raven were observed flying overhead.

9:30 am. The crew used a Bobcat to grade at Eastern most inlet.

9:50 am. An adult Cooper's hawk and five American Crows flew overhead. An Anna's Hummingbird foraged around the southern edge of the site near pines.

10:23 am. The crew continued working at four locations, planting, grading, and trenching.

10:46 am. The crew was grading using a Bobcat, a Bulldozer, and a dump truck at Eastern most inlet.

11:05 am. A Northern Mockingbird foraged along the Northern edge of the site.

11:50 am. The crew continued planting along west edge of site, while a Red-tailed Hawk hunted nearby.

12:10 am. The crew broke for lunch.

1:07 pm. The crew returned from lunch.

1:30 pm. The crew began grading along northern edge of site near the bike path. The silt fence was relocated closer to the water line (Figure 5).

1:56 pm. Raccoon and canid prints were observed near the water line along the north edge of the Basin.

2:20 pm. The crew graded with hand tools along southern edge of site near water line.

2:45 pm. The crew watered potted and planted plants using the irrigation system and hoses.

3:07 pm. The crew began cleanup of the work sites.

3:27 pm. The crew exited the project site.

## Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any Monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am.
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4. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 6, 2016.**

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on February 6, 2016		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Two individuals observed foraging in the Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Four individuals observed foraging in the Basin



Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	One individual observed foraging in the Basin
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipter cooperii</i>	One individual observed flying over the Basin
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	One individual observed flying over the Basin
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californica</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	One individual observed flying over the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	One individual observed foraging around the Basin
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Two individuals observed flying overhead
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	One individual observed along the northern portion of the site
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	One individual observed foraging along the shoreline of the Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	One individual observed flying overhead



**Figure 1.** Photo facing northwest of west embankment planting.



**Figure 2.** Photo facing northeast of C.S. Legacy crew planting.





**Figure 3.** Photo facing northwest of Inspector and C.S. Legacy crew installing drain pipe.



**Figure 4.** Photo facing east of C.S. Legacy and terra mesh install.





**Figure 5.** Photo facing east of C.S. Legacy relocating silt fence.